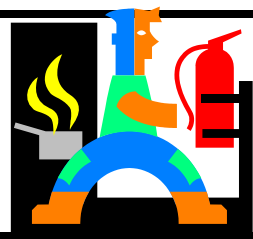




OLCR ♦ Life-Safety Inspections Partnership in Protection

Volume 8, Issue 3 ♦ Winter 2013/14



Crunching Numbers

We're still entering our inspection reports for the last week in December, but our numbers for the 2013 calendar year already exceed **4,200** inspections! **83%** of these inspections were for **foster homes** and more than half were for **initials** (i.e., a new care provider). While some inspections take longer than others to schedule (due to location, availability and readiness of the provider, and availability of an inspector), on average, we're able to complete an inspection within **21 days** of the request being submitted to OLCR.

What's with the New Form?

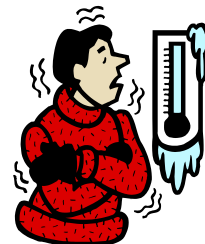
You may have noticed a new form among the paperwork completed in the Life-Safety Inspection. It's called the [Life-Safety Agreement](#) and is being piloted by OLCR as a way to help ensure applicants/care providers understand the requirements as well as their responsibility for compliance on an ongoing basis (not just during the inspection). Some highlights from the form:

- Pets that are dangerous include animals that are exotic, venomous, or constricting.
- Firearm storage is emphasized and providers are directed to inform their licensing agency before bringing firearms into the home if they did not have any present at the time of the OLCR inspection. For licensing agencies, this means they must verify proper storage of those firearms.
- Requirements for the locked storage of medications and highly toxic substances are emphasized. Even during renewal inspections we frequently hear providers say "I didn't know I needed to lock up the . . . Tylenol . . . bleach . . . spray paint" so we're hoping this form will help to clarify the requirements.
- A review of the pool requirements, including the applicability of a fence between the home and a pool or spa, clarifying that a cover may not be used in lieu of a fence, and requirements for safeguarding a drained pool or spa.

OLCR inspectors will be reviewing this new form with residentially based care providers at the time of each full life-safety inspection (initial, relocation & renewal). Agencies working with residential providers are welcomed to use the form or any other tool developed by OLCR to assist in explaining or emphasizing regulatory requirements.

Baby, it's Cold Outside!

Many people prefer to remain indoors in the winter, but staying inside is no guarantee of safety. Take these steps to help keep homes safe and warm during the winter months.



- Have heating systems serviced professionally to make sure they're clean, working properly and ventilated to the outside.
- Inspect and clean fireplaces and chimneys.
- Have a plan for safe alternate heating or for relocation if the primary source of heat should fail.
- Remember, the life-safety rules prohibit the use of portable space heaters in bedrooms or as the primary source of heat for a setting.
- Test smoke detector batteries monthly.
- A working carbon monoxide (CO) detector is required in homes that have fireplaces, gas stoves, or other fuel burning appliances. Check batteries regularly.
- Never run a portable generator indoors or in partially-enclosed spaces (such as a garage, carport, or shed). Generators can produce high levels of CO in just minutes. CO is odorless, colorless, and deadly!
- Learn symptoms of CO poisoning (headaches, nausea, and disorientation) and get to fresh air right away if you start to feel dizzy or weak.

Watch your Step

Approximately 8.9 million "trips" to the emergency room are due to fall related injuries. Taking a tumble is the most frequently reported home accident. Remove slip, trip and fall hazards to prevent accidents from happening.

- Keep hallways, walkways and stairways clear of clutter.
- Avoid the use of scatter rugs.
- Repair tears in carpets, secure loose tiles, and smooth out uneven surfaces.
- Install a light switch near the entry to each room and keep a night light turned on in hallways & stairways overnight.
- Keep working flashlights in convenient locations (and promptly return after use).
- Test handrails and grab bars to make sure they are sturdy and secure.



Get Ahead of Lead

This recent and timely caution was originally shared by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC):

Lead is invisible to the naked eye and has no smell. Exposure can occur through normal handling of the product. Additionally, children often place toys and other objects, as well as their fingers that have touched these objects, in their mouth, which exposes them to lead paint or dust. Toys that have been made in other countries and then imported into the United States, or antiques passed down through generations, often contain lead. To reduce these risks from exposure to lead, the CPSC issues recalls of toys that could potentially expose children to lead. Learn more at <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/>.

Lead in Toys: Lead may be used in two aspects of toy manufacturing. **Paint:** Lead was banned in house paint, on products marketed to children, and in dishes and cookware in the United States in 1978, but lead is still widely used in other countries and can be found on imported toys and on toys made in the United States before the ban.



Plastic: While regulated, the use of lead in plastics has not been banned in the United States. It softens and stabilizes the plastic; however, when the plastic is exposed to substances such as sunlight, air, and detergents, the plastic breaks down and may form a lead dust.

Lead in Jewelry: Just wearing jewelry that contains lead will not cause a high level of lead in their blood. However, if jewelry containing lead is swallowed or sucked on, the individual can be poisoned.

A health care provider can perform a blood test to see if a person has been exposed to lead and if treatment is necessary. Most people with elevated blood-lead levels do not have any symptoms. As blood-lead levels increase, a larger effect on learning and behavior will occur. A blood-lead test is the only way to know if a person has an elevated lead level.

Contact Us

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Need a Special Inspection?

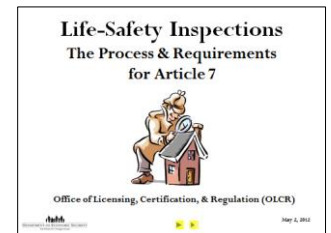
If you need OLCR to visit a home or setting for a **special** inspection, you'll need to submit the [LCR-1033 Inspection Request Form](#) to OLCRinspect@azdes.gov. What makes an inspection **special**? In a special inspection we're looking at something specific, such as a room addition, a new pool fence, or corrections made in response to a previous inspection. In a special inspection we're not conducting a **full** inspection. Initial, renewal, and relocation inspections are all full inspections.

While a pool fence consultation isn't technically an inspection at all, it is requested, scheduled, and processed like a special inspection. In other words, a consultation is requested using the LCR-1033 form, it doesn't usually take as long to conduct as a full inspection, and the results are not listed on the inspection table in Quick Connect.

Don't Learn the Safety Rules by Accident!

To stay on top of current forms, practices, and resources, please bookmark our website: www.azdes.gov/olcrinspect.

We have a couple PDF/PowerPoints available for your use to help train staff and care providers on the inspection requirements & process (click on the images below to access the links).



The [Life-Safety Rules booklet](#) continues to be our primary resource for the inspection requirements. A copy or link to the booklet should be given to each care provider before an inspection by OLCR is even requested. The booklet will explain the requirements and even makes available the checklist used by our inspectors. Utilizing this resource should help each provider to ensure full compliance for their inspection, as well as on an on-going basis.

For the official source of administrative rules, visit the Secretary of State's website:
http://www.azsos.gov/public_services/Title_06/6-18.htm

This newsletter is brought to you by the Regulatory Support Unit within the DES Office of Licensing, Certification, and Regulation (OLCR). Please forward any questions or suggestions to Kathi Barone, unit manager, at 602-771-8761 or to OLCRinspect@azdes.gov